(c) Liquidated Damage Charges to the tune of Rs.13.00 crores have been recovered from M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. for delay in commencement of service as well as delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines. A notice was issued in May, 2003 to provide VPTs as well as submit plans to provide balance VPTs by the end of 2003 after excluding the categories of village identified as de-populated villages, villages with population less than 100, Naxalite or insurgency affected villages and to be covered by satellite media in the first phase, failing which steps for encashment the Performance Bank Guarantee will be initiated. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. have responded to the notice and submitted plans to cover 165 villages in Andhra Pradesh service areas by December, 2003 and has reported that 4434 villages are in above mentioned categories. Further it has been reported that 879 villages are inaccessible. The fulfilment of the commitments now given by the private operators will be closely monitored.

Illegal routing of National Long Distance calls

1952. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the private operators are caught for illegally routing National Long Distance calls in violation of licence and interconnect agreements with the BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the violating companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) BSNL has reported that there is no violation of licence and interconnect agreement with BSNL. However, case of M/s World Callnet (Cleartel as brand name) which was advertising and selling the pre-paid Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD)/International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) cards to telephone customers in the garb of Virtual Calling Card (VCC) came to notice. The STD/ISD calls made from MTNL/BSNL customers were being routed through the telephone lines obtained by Cleartel from M/s Bharti Telenet Limited. Thus the STD/ISD calls originated by MTNL/BSNL customers using these pre-

paid cards were being converted into the originating calls of Bharti Telenet Limited by such an arrangement and MTNL/BSNL were deprived of their legitimate revenues for the STD/ISD calls. The matter was reported to Police. One person was arrested and illegal operation stopped. No case in respect of any other private operator has come to the notice of the Government.

The Government takes suitable action including raids with the help of CBI/local police for stopping illegal routing of National and International traffic.

Limited mobility WLL phones

1953. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL proposes to launch the limited mobility Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area to be covered;

(c) whether the hardware and other equipments are installed/ purchased for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All the equipments have been received and installation work is in progress at all the stations.

(e) It is likely to start functioning by the end of 2nd quarter of year 2003-04.